THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries in various sectors all over India. The year-wise number of cases pending in the Ministry under the Scheme for setting up/modernization/expansion of Food Processing Industries is as follows:-

Year	Number of cases
2002-03	13
2003-04	55
2004-05	262
2005-06	192
2006-07	327

On receipt of the proposals, the Ministry processes and examines; and only complete proposals as per the guidelines of the Ministry, are considered for approval and financial assistance is released accordingly.

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007. All the pending applications are also being sent to the concerned banks from which the units have taken term loan for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme.

Projections for food processing in Punjab

143. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has initated any new projects for food processing in Punjab during the last two years and so far during 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise indicating particularly the location of each project; the funds required for their completion, project-wise; and

(c) by when all these projects are likely to be completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has embarked upon a number of strategic interventions in the food processing sector which includes strengthening of infrastructure. The States/UTs are also required to make concerted efforts for the development of food processing sector in their respective States which includes framing of Food Processing Industrial Policy and short term and long term action plans.

Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries in various sectors all over India including the State of Punjab. Ministry does not set up food processing units on its own.

On receipt of the proposals, the Ministry processes and examine; and only complete proposals as per the guidelines of the Ministry, are considered for approval and financial assistance is released accordingly.

Ministry had provided an amount of Rs. 12.13 crore as financial assistance to the state of Punjab for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units during the 2005-06, 2006-07. The details are given below:-

Sector	Number of Unit	Location (District)
Oil Milling	13	Sangrur, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Mansa, Ropar, Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib.
Flour Milling	2	Ferozepur, Bhatinda.
Rice Milling	5	Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Muktsar, Bhatinda, Samana
Bakery Products	2	Ludhiana
Fruit & Vegetable	7	Hoshiarpur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib.
Meat & Poultry Products	3	Amritsar, Patiala.
Milk Processing	4	Ludhiana, Moga, Sangrur.
Human Resource Development (HRD)	7	Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Bhatinda
Research & Development (R & D)	1	Chandigarh

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decided to decentralize the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007.

Potential in food processing sector

144. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India produces around 10 per cent of world's fruits and vegetables and has a good potential in food processing sector;

(b) whether Government propose to exploit the food processing with the help of private and corporate sectors, to improve the economy of the rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir. India produces around 10% of world's fruit and vegetable, and has huge potential in food processing sector.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has been implementing various Plan Schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries and to attract private investment in food processing sector in order to give boost to agro-food processing, which will help in improving the economy of the rural areas. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation/ Establishment of food processing industries, Ministry of Food Processing